<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

Upon entry of the present amendment, the status of the claims will be as is shown below. This listing of claims replaces all previous versions and listings of claims in the present application.

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled).

20. (New) A host processing device for reproducing compressed audio data, comprising:

a body;

a memory slot formed in a side of the body to accommodate at least a portion of a universal serial bus (USB) flash disk;

a command input operable to instruct the host processing device to execute an operation; and

a system control module operable to control execution of the operation by the host processing device,

wherein the system control module comprises:

a digital interface adapted to communicate with the universal serial bus flash disk through a universal serial bus port formed in the memory slot, and to interface the system control module with the compressed audio data in accordance with a digital interface communication standard,

a processing module operable to process a command signal from the command input, to control execution of the operation by the host processing device in accordance with the command signal, to request the compressed audio

data from the universal serial bus flash disk, to receive the compressed audio data from the universal serial bus flash disk, and to apply the received compressed audio data to a path;

a memory for storing a system operation program for execution of the operation by the host processing device, and

a decoder unit, including a buffer, controlled by the processing module and operable to delay playback of the compressed audio data and to decode the compressed audio data into decompressed audio data.

21. (New) A host processing device using an external storage medium, comprising:

a medium access module operable to provide access to the external storage medium through a digital transmission medium;

an information source module for sourcing a signal;

a signal processing module operable to decode media data in accordance with a first signal processing method and to encode the signal into encoded media data in accordance with a second signal processing method, and

a system memory for storing a system operation program for execution of an operation by the host processing device,

a processing module operable to control execution of the operation by the host processing device, to access the external storage medium, to read, for each of a plurality of media files stored in the external storage medium, first file information stored in the external storage medium, and to position the first file information, for each of the plurality of media files, in the system memory,

wherein, the processing module is further operable to receive a command to select a specific media file, to search for and read data of the selected media file on the external storage medium through the medium access module based upon the first file information positioned in the system memory, and to provide the read media data to the signal processing module to be decoded in accordance with the first signal processing method, and

wherein, the processing module is further operable to receive an encoding command, to transmit the signal from the information source module to the signal processing module to be encoded into media data in accordance with the second signal processing method, to construct a media file from the encoded media data and position the constructed media file on the system memory, and to copy the constructed media file to the external storage medium through the medium access module when the external storage medium is accessible through the medium access module.

22. (New) The host processing device according to claim 21,

wherein the processing module is operable to store the selected media file in the system memory, and to provide the selected media file stored in the system memory to the signal processing module for decoding in accordance with the first signal processing method, in order to decode the media file when the processing module receives the command to select the media file.

23. (New) A host processing device using an external storage medium, comprising:

a medium access module operable to provide access to the external storage

medium through a digital transmission medium;

an information source module for sourcing a signal;

a signal processing module operable to decode media data in accordance with a first signal processing method and to encode the signal into encoded media data in accordance with a second signal processing method;

a user interface operable to interface a user with the host processing device;

a system memory for storing a system operation program for execution of an operation by the host processing device, and

a processing module operable to control execution of the operation by the host processing device, to access the external storage medium through the medium access module, to read, for each of a plurality of media files stored in the external storage medium, first file information stored in the external storage medium, and to display on the user interface the media files stored in the external storage medium,

wherein the processing module is operable to receive a command to select a specific media file, to access the external storage medium through the medium access module, to search for the selected media file, to load data of the selected file data onto the system memory, and to provide the selected media file loaded onto the system memory to the signal processing module to be decoded in accordance with the first signal processing method, and

wherein the processing module is operable to receive an encoding command, to transmit the signal from the information source module to the signal processing module to be encoded into media data according to the second signal processing method, to construct a media file from the encoded media data and position the media file on the

system memory, and to copy the constructed media file to the external storage medium through the medium access module when the external storage medium is accessible through the medium access module.

24. (New) The host processing device according to claim 21,

wherein the first file information for the media file comprises at least one descriptor that describes the media file.

25. (New) The host processing device according to claim 22,

wherein the processing module is operable to preload a next media file, as a background process, while the selected media file is decoded, by:

determining the next media file to be decoded after the selected media file;

searching for the next media file on the external storage medium based on the first file information, for the next media file, positioned in the system memory; and

storing the next media file in the system memory.

26. (New) The host processing device according to claim 22,

wherein the processing module is operable to operate in an activated access mode prior to accessing the external storage medium, and to operate in the non-activated access mode after accessing the external storage medium, the non-activated access mode requiring a power consumption that is less than the power consumption required by the activated access mode.

27. (New) The host processing device according to claim 21,

wherein the processing module is operable to determine whether the selected media file has been secured by a security measure upon reading the selected media file stored in the external storage medium,

wherein the processing module is operable to search for the selected media file stored in the external storage medium, in accordance with a file search method, when the processing module determines that the selected media file has not been secured by the security measure,

wherein the processing module is operable to obtain a first physical location of the media file stored in the external storage medium from a second file information of the selected media file, to obtain a second physical location related to the first physical location by a second transformation rule, and to search for the media file based on the second physical location when the processing module determines that the media file has been secured, and

wherein an inverse function, F^{-1}, is applied to a first transformation rule by which the media file is secured, F, to obtain the second transformation rule, F'.

28. (New) The host processing device according to claim 27,

wherein the second file information for the selected media file comprises a file allocation table (FAT) for the selected media file.

29. (New) The host processing device according to claim 23,

wherein the processing module is operable to create a media file from the encoded media data, to position the created media file in the system memory, and to copy the created media file from the system memory to the external storage medium by the medium access module, when the encoded media data exceeds a specified amount.

30. (New) The host processing device according to claim 23,

wherein the information source module comprises:

a tuner operable to generate a tuning signal by tuning a radio frequency signal;

a microphone operable to generate a microphone signal in response to a sound; and

a switch for selecting an output signal from the tuning signal and the microphone signal,

wherein the information source module is operable to source the output signal selected by the switch to the signal processing module.

31. (New) The host processing device according to claim 21,

wherein the digital transmission medium comprises a universal serial bus (USB) medium, and

wherein the medium access module is operable to connect to the external storage medium by the universal serial bus medium, and to operate in a host mode.

32. (New) The host processing device according to claim 21,

wherein the digital transmission medium comprises an institute of electrical and electronics engineers 1394 (IEEE1394) medium, and

wherein the medium access module is operable to connect to the external storage medium by the institute of electrical and electronics engineers 1394 medium, and operable to operate in a serial bus protocol 2 initiator mode.

33. (New) The host processing device according to claim 21,

wherein the external storage medium comprises an external storage device separable from the host processing device.

34. (New) The host processing device according to claim 21,

wherein the external storage medium comprises a non-volatile memory embedded in a mobile communication device, and

wherein the host processing module is operable to connect to the mobile communication device by the medium access module, and operable to access the non-volatile memory.

35. (New)The host processing device according to claim 21,

wherein the external storage medium comprises a recording medium of a recording medium reading device, and

wherein the host processing module is operable to connect to the recording medium reading device by the medium access module, and operable to access the recording medium.

36. (New) The host processing device according to claim 21, further comprising:

a user interface operable to integrally interface a user with the host processing device,

wherein the digital transmission medium comprises a cable connecting the host processing device to the external storage medium.